



Main Street Baptist Church Financial Literacy Workshop

**APPLYING BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES TO YOUR FINANCIAL PUZZLE
SESSION V - Virtual (via Zoom)**

August 1, 2020 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am

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Additional resources and website data are included into today's session. Information shared but not warranted.

Previous sessions we discussed...

- ▶ Defined and discussed financial literacy, financial pitfalls to avoid and money myths
- ▶ Provided tools for our long-term goal of financial empowerment
- ▶ Budgeting: Created projected and actual budgets (tracked expenses and bank statement re-conciliation)
- ▶ Discussed steps to financial freedom
- ▶ Discussed ways to increase your income using your valuable gifts
- ▶ Discussed the importance of saving and charitable giving
- ▶ Established saving plans
- ▶ Discussed goal setting and why it's important
- ▶ Completed goal setting activities
- ▶ Reviewed credit reports and ways to address items on your report
- ▶ Discussed ways to improve your credit
- ▶ Prepared checklist for financial disasters
- ▶ Understanding your life insurance options and needs

Biblical Principal (Covered in past Lessons)

God is the Source

- (Phil 4:19) God Supplies our needs according to His riches in Glory by Jesus Christ

Giving is Essential

- (Luke 6:38, Give and it shall be given unto you)
- (Prov 3:9, Honor the Lord with thy Substance and 1st fruits)

Live with a Margin

- (Prov 22:3, A prudent man foresees)

Saving

- (Prov 21:20, There is treasure in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man spendeth it up)

Biblical Principal (Covered in past Lessons)

Keep Out of Debt

- (Prov 22:7) The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

Be Content

- (Hebrews 13:5), “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”)
- (Philippians 4: 10-13), “¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned *before*, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak [g]from want, for I have learned to be [h]content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ I can do all things [i]through Him who strengthens me..”

Today we will....

Discuss managing your finances during Covid19.. Updates

- Proposed 2nd stimulus package

Review our Biblical principles

Protecting your Identity during COVID19

Protecting your assets during COVID19

Managing your finances during Covid19

- **LIVE ON A BUDGET** - Review and revise as neededbe more conservative
- Lots of unknown are ahead...be lean and efficient and **SAVE** when possible
- Prioritize billspay essential bills first
- Contact creditors for payment plans or hardship options
- Apply for unemployment.. if job loss or furlough due to COVID19 - receive additional \$600 per week

To apply:

<https://uiclaims.des.ky.gov/ebenefit/eben.htm> or call 502-875-0442

- Use your stimulus relief refund money to **pay off debts** and save

To check your stimulus relief refund status:

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

- **Cut any non-essential expenses** and cancel unnecessary subscriptions
- **Downgrade non-essential un-cuttable expenses** that cannot be cut, figure out how to downgrade them to save money
- Learn how to do many of your home repairs ...YouTube has great DIY videos
- Great time to get additional on-line certifications to enhance job knowledge and earnings post COVID19

Biblical Principal (Keep Records: Budget)

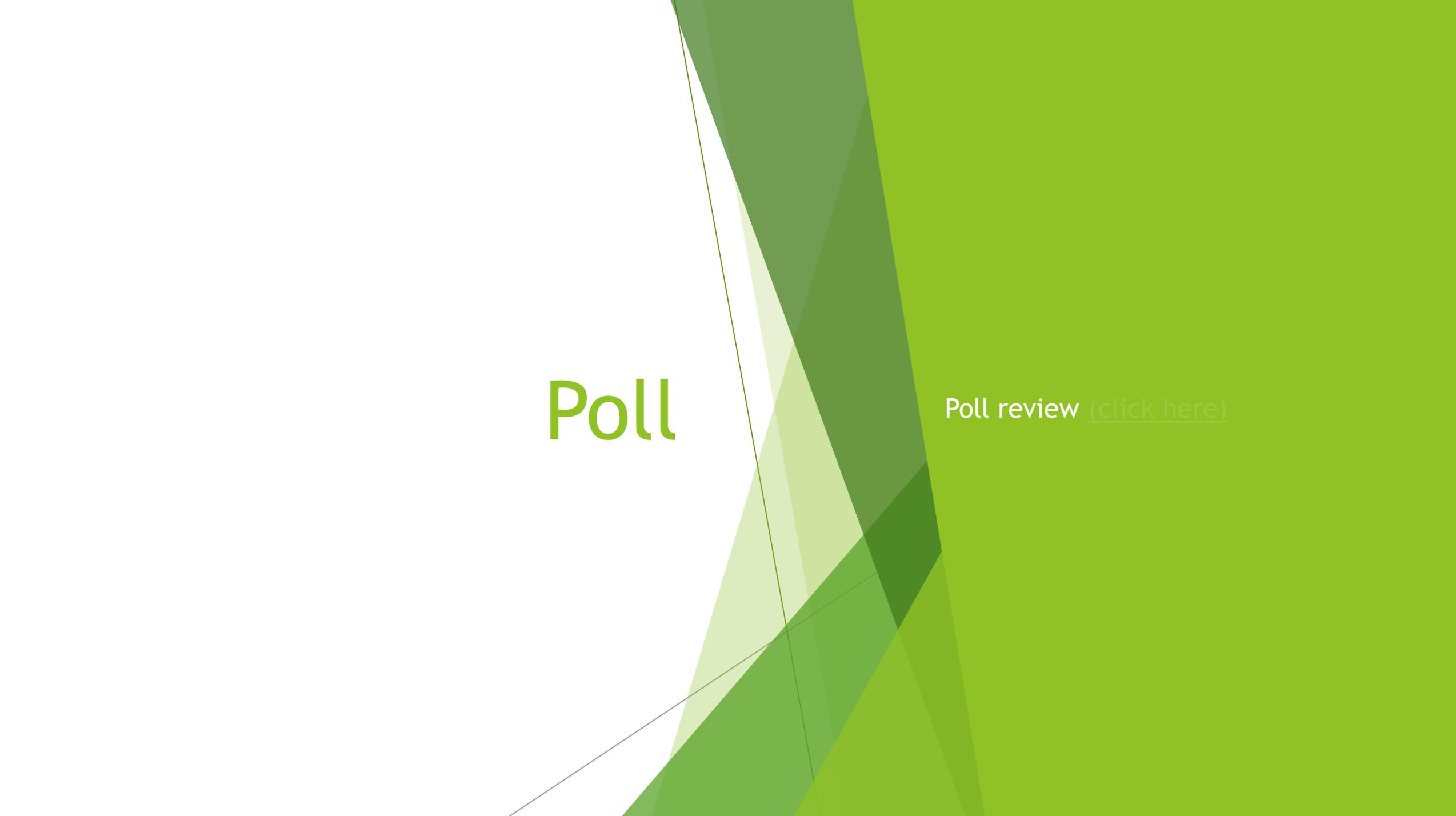
1. Understand your cost

- (Luke 14:28)"For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?"

2. Seek to Understand

- (Proverbs 24:3-4)
- ³ By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established;
- ⁴ And by knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.

Note: Financial Knowledge is in the Numbers



Poll

Poll review [\(click here\)](#)

Understanding your score

- ▶ **100+ points** - You are at high risk . I recommend you purchase a cross-cut paper shredder, become more security-aware in document handling, and start to question why people need your personal data.
- ▶ **50 - 99** - Your odds of being victimized are about average.
- ▶ **0-49** - Congratulations! You have a high “IQ” when it comes to ID protection.

Protecting Your Identity

► Why is it important?



Protecting Your Identity During Covid19

- ▶ Be extra vigilant about protecting your identity. Identity theft and related scams often spike during times of crisis, so it's especially important now to protect your personal information.
- ▶ If you fear identity theft may occur or has occurred in your name, you can also place a [free security freeze](#) on your Experian credit file so lenders cannot gain access to it. This prevents people from accessing your personal information and applying for credit in your name. You can lift the freeze at any time, for free.

Are you a victim of Identity fraud?

- ▶ Millions of Americans are victims of fraud or identity theft each year. No matter where you live or how old you are, you may someday be affected by these crimes. Understanding what identity theft is and what you can do to protect your personal information is part of becoming financially literate
- ▶ Identity theft happens when a person uses, or tries to use, someone else's sensitive personal information to commit fraud. This could be a stranger or someone you know, even someone in your own family.
- ▶ They could use your name and address, your phone number or email, your credit card or bank account numbers, your Social Security number, or other types of information that belongs to you. The people who steal personal information can harm you by buying things using your existing accounts such as bank or credit card accounts, or by opening new accounts while pretending to be you. The trouble is, because the creditors think you've made the purchases, those bills will affect you.
- ▶ Often, victims of identity theft don't even know that their identity was stolen until they find out that they have poor credit because of unpaid bills on accounts a thief opens and uses. Sometimes it can take a while to get the information about the thief's activities off your credit record. During the process of clearing your record, it can be hard to get a job, a loan, or a place to live.
- ▶ It's important to protect your identity so this doesn't happen to you. If your identity is stolen, the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) website [identitytheft.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identitytheft) can help you report the theft and recover from it

Deter-Detect-Defend- **AVOID THEFT**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC8pjXn-sWM>

How Can I Protect My Identity?

- ▶ At home:
 - ▶ keep your financial records, Social Security and Medicare cards in a safe place
 - ▶ shred papers that have your personal or medical information
 - ▶ take mail out of your mailbox as soon as you can
- ▶ As you do business:
 - ▶ only give your Social Security number if you must. Ask if you can use another kind of identification
 - ▶ do not give your personal information to someone who calls you or emails you
- ▶ On the computer:
 - ▶ use passwords that are not easy to guess. Use numbers and symbols when you can
 - ▶ do not respond to emails or other messages that ask for personal information
 - ▶ do not put personal information on a computer in a public place, like the library

ID THEFT PROTECTION PLANS

Why protecting my identity is important?

A few statistics on identity theft in the US:

- Identity theft is one of the top consumer complaints reported to the FTC for the last 15 years.
- From 2014 to 2015, identity theft complaints increased more than 47% due to tax identity theft complaints.
- The Department of Justice estimates that 17.6 million Americans were victims of identity theft in 2014. ²
- In 2015 alone, \$15B was stolen from identity fraud victims in the US.
- Fraudsters have stolen \$112B over the last six years, equaling a loss of \$35,600 every minute.⁵
- In 2014, identity theft was found to occur once every two seconds.

What is Norton/LifeLock Identity Theft Protection?

- Norton Identity Protection is a service that monitors your personal information and alerts you if suspicious activity is identified. If you become a victim of identity theft, it also helps you restore your identity with certified US based restoration agents available 24x7 to handle your case. In addition, Norton Identity Protection offers up to \$1 million identity theft insurance that is designed to reimburse you for qualifying restoration costs and expenses.

How will I know if someone steals my identity

Read your bills and account statements. Watch for:

- ▶ things you did not buy
- ▶ withdrawals you did not make
- ▶ a change of your address that you did not expect
- ▶ bills that stop coming
- ▶ Look at medical statements. You might see charges you do not recognize. That might mean someone stole your identity.
- ▶ Review your credit report for unknown account - Look for mistakes or accounts you do not recognize. This could mean someone stole your identity. You get one free credit report every year from each credit reporting company. To order: Call Annual Credit Report at 1-877-322-8228.

What should I do if I become a victim of identity theft

- ▶ Lock or close suspicious accounts
- ▶ Skim your bank statements for unknow transactions
- ▶ File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commissioner (identitytheft.gov or 1-877-392-4357)
- ▶ Get in touch with your local police station
- ▶ Contact Social Security Fraud Hotline
- ▶ Contact the IRS Fraud line (1-800-908-4490)

Protect Yourself From Scams

Beware of Scams Related to the
Coronavirus

Job Scams taking place during COVID19

- ▶ Want to be your own boss? Earn thousands of dollars a month from home? Ads promote many different work-at-home jobs and businesses, but often the message is the same: they promise you'll earn a great living from home, even in your spare time. Don't take their word for it – many of these “jobs” are scams, or don't deliver on the claims they make. So do some research and learn about common work-at-home scams.
- ▶ When money's tight, a work-at-home opportunity might sound like just the thing to make ends meet. Some even promise a refund if you don't succeed. But the reality is many of these jobs are scams. You end up paying for starter kits or certifications that are useless, find your credit card is charged without your permission, or get caught up in a fake check scam. Other work-at-home offers just don't deliver on their promises. The ads don't tell you that you may have to work a lot of hours without pay, or don't disclose all the costs up-front. You might spend money based on promises you'll quickly earn it back – but you don't. People tricked by work-at-home ads have lost thousands of dollars, not to mention their time and energy.

Work from Home Scams





Report a Scam

- ▶ If you have spent money and time on a work-at-home program and now believe it might not be legitimate, contact the company and ask for a refund. Let company representatives know that you plan to notify law enforcement officials about your experience.
- ▶ If you can't resolve the dispute with the company, file a complaint with:
 - The FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint) or 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357).
 - The Attorney General's office in your state or the state where the company is located
 - The advertising manager of the publication that ran the ad. The manager may be interested to learn about the problems you've had with the company.



Scams involving your Social Security numbers and benefits are on the rise! [\(here\)](#)

Calls claiming to be the SSA

Scammers are calling, pretending to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and saying that your Social Security number (SSN) has been suspended because of suspicious activity or being involved in a crime. Sometimes, the scammer wants you to confirm your SSN to reactivate it or will ask for money or gift cards to keep your SSN or bank account safe.

Here's what to know:

- Your Social Security number is not about to be suspended. You don't have to verify your number to anyone who calls out of the blue. And your bank accounts are not about to be seized.
- SSA will never call to threaten you or your benefits. And SSA will not tell you to wire money, send cash, or put money on gift cards. Anyone who tells you to do those things is a scammer. Every time.
- Don't trust what you see on caller ID. Scammers can make it look like they're calling from anywhere - even a real SSA phone number.
- Never give any part of your Social Security number to anyone who contacts you out of the blue. Or your bank account or credit card number.
- Real SSA staff do call people who have ongoing business with the agency. But they'll never threaten you or ask you to send money.

Has your SSN been exposed or misused? Here's what you can do:

[I gave my Social Security number to the caller and I'm worried about identity theft.](#)

[Someone used my Social Security number to open accounts and I want to report identity theft.](#)



Spoil your
grandkids, not
scammers!
(here)

- ▶ Spoil your grandkids, not scammers! Beware of scammers pretending to be your grandchild, relative, or friend.
- ▶ Often, they claim to be in trouble—usually in jail or stranded in a foreign country and ask you to send money. They may ask you to send cash by mail or buy gift cards.
- ▶ They often beg you to keep it a secret and act fast before you start to question.
- ▶ Don't panic! Take a deep breath and get the facts. Don't send money unless you're sure it's the real person who contacted you.
- ▶ Hang up and call your grandchild or friend's phone number to see if the story checks out. You could also call a different friend or relative. • Is the person asking for gift cards? If someone is really in need, gift cards won't help. Report grandparent scams to the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint) or by calling 1-877-382-4357.



Scams can hide in plain sight, learn how to spot them ([here](#))....
Contractors, free meals, tech support



Romance Scam

How to Know If It's a Scam

- ▶ Promises of a big income working from home, especially when the “opportunity” involves an up-front fee or giving your credit card information, should make you very suspicious. It doesn't matter if the ad shows up in a trusted newspaper or website, or if the people you talk to on the phone sound legitimate. It still could be a scam.
- ▶ If you're thinking about following up on a work at-home offer, do your homework. The FTC's Business Opportunity Rule has safeguards in place to make sure you have the information you need to tell whether a work-at-home opportunity is a risky business. Under the Rule, sellers have to give you a one-page disclosure document that offers key pieces of information about the opportunity. Use the information in the disclosure document to fact-check what the seller tells you.

Other scams....

- ▶ <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0376-hacked-email>

Stopping Unsolicited Mail, Phone Calls, and Email

- ▶ Tired of having your mailbox crammed with unsolicited mail, including preapproved credit card applications? Fed up with getting telemarketing calls just as you're sitting down to dinner? Fuming that your email inbox is chock-full of unsolicited advertising? The good news is that you can cut down on the number of unsolicited mailings, calls, and emails you receive by learning where to go to "just say no."
- ▶ If you decide that you don't want to receive prescreened offers of credit and insurance, you have two choices: You can opt out of receiving them for five years or opt out of receiving them permanently.
- ▶ **To opt out for five years:** Call toll-free 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit www.optoutprescreen.com. The phone number and website are operated by the major consumer reporting companies.
- ▶ **To opt out permanently:** You may begin the permanent Opt-Out process online at www.optoutprescreen.com. To complete your request, you must return the signed Permanent Opt-Out Election form, which will be provided after you initiate your online request.
- ▶ When you call or visit the website, you'll be asked to provide certain personal information, including your home telephone number, name, Social Security number, and date of birth. The information you provide is confidential and will be used only to process your request to opt out.
- ▶ If you don't have access to the Internet, you may send a written request to permanently opt out to each of the major consumer reporting companies. Make sure your request includes your home telephone number, name, Social Security number, and date of birth.

Cell Phones and The Do Not Call Registry

Consumers may place their cell phone number on the [National Do Not Call Registry](#) to notify marketers that they don't want to get unsolicited telemarketing calls.

There is no deadline for registering a cell phone number on the Do Not Call Registry.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers without prior consent. Automated dialers are standard in the industry, so most telemarketers are barred from calling consumers' cell phones without their consent.

There is only one Do Not Call Registry, operated by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), with information available at [donotcall.gov](#). There is no separate registry for cell phones.

The Do Not Call Registry accepts registrations from both cell phones and land lines. To register by telephone, call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236). You must call from the phone number that you want to register. To register online ([donotcall.gov](#)), you will have to respond to a confirmation email.

If you have registered a mobile or other telephone number already, you don't need to re-register. Once registered, a telephone number stays on the Do Not Call Registry until the registration is canceled or service for the number is discontinued.

How to Deal with FRAUD?



Guiding 
You Forward

How to Spot Financial Fraud or Elder Abuse - Look out for these common signs of financial exploitation:

- Money is missing from the person's account.
- The person says some money or property is missing.
- The person is afraid or seems afraid of a relative, caregiver, or friend.
- The person is reluctant to have visitors or take phone calls.
- A relative, caregiver, friend, or someone else speaks for, or seems to be controlling the person's decisions.
- You notice sudden changes in the person's spending or savings.
- Withdrawing or wiring money from accounts without explanation.
- Using the ATM a lot
- Not paying bills that are usually paid
- Buying things or services they don't usually buy
- Adding names on bank or other accounts that you do not recognize or that the account holder is unwilling or unable to explain.
- Giving new or unusual gifts to family members or others, such as a "new best friend"
- Changing beneficiaries of a will, life insurance policy, or retirement funds
- Allowing a caregiver, friend, or relative to begin handling their money

What can you do if you suspect elder abuse? If you believe a crime has occurred, report it to law enforcement's emergency number or local Adult Protective Services. You can also report financial abuse to the State attorney general's office at www.justice.gov/usao/find-your-united-states-attorney. If you think the person's safety may be at risk, call 911. If you suspect identity theft or scams, you can report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at ftc.gov.

Mail Fraud (here)



Other costly scams

- ▶ <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0376-hacked-email>

Questions & Answers

► Future topic ideas.....

A. HOMEOWNERSHIP

The benefits and requirements of being a homeowner

Understanding home ownership

Understanding my options for financing a home

How to get down payment money for my home

The benefits of working with a realtor

Understanding mortgage refinancing and when is a good time to refinance

Understanding reverse mortgage

B. INVESTING

Understanding basic investment options from a non-sell person and why investing is important. What's the difference between stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities, etc. What is house-hacking and how it can benefit you.

C. OTHER IDEAS.....